

Fort Des Moines Historic Complex,
Building 135
(Granary)
Des Moines
Polk County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-121-AA

HABS
IOWA,
77-DESMO.
24-AA-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

HABS
IOWA,
77-DESMO,
24-AA-

HABS No. IA-121-AA

Building No. 135. Granary Storehouse

Completed on January 23, 1904, at a cost of \$11,535.00, Building No. 135 conformed to the Quartermaster General's plan 55E for storehouses. The single story building was situated in an east-west alignment along the south side of Rogers Road. Built of brick on a rusticated limestone foundation, and possessing a gabled slate roof, the storehouse measured 35 feet wide by 174 feet 11 inches long and had a capacity for 500,000 lbs. of grain for feeding the cavalry horses. The brick was arranged in running bond and joined with red-pigmented mortar. The east end of the building contained two single sash windows. The west end contained one single door and one single sash window. The south side had six double doors, ten single sash windows, and two double hung windows. The north side contained six single doors. All openings had 3-course segmental arches; each window had a plain lug limestone sill. The building was equipped with iron gutters and downspouts. Four ventilators topped the ridge of the roof, and an external chimney, possibly added later, stood at the west end. Beneath the eaves were ornamental rafter tails. A firewall capped with tile projected through the roof at the halfway point. There was a basement.

Floor space measured 5,694 square feet, and the floors were of wood. The building's interior was laid out thusly:

2 rooms, 32' 10" x 90' 10"

Electricity provided lighting and stoves provided heat. Unspecified repairs between 1904 and 1922 averaged \$25.80 per year. In 1935-36 the building briefly served as a CCC commissary after an expenditure of \$2,912.69. Also in 1935, five unit heaters were placed in the structure and a hand powered elevator was installed to operate between the

basement and the first floor. A hot water heater and tank was also installed.

Changes to the structure have included the construction of a wraparound concrete platform at the west end of the south side, complete with corrugated iron roof supported by metal pipe columns. One double entrance on the south side has been boarded in and converted to two double hung windows, each of 6-over-6-lights. A loading dock once on the south side was removed, while an el-shaped concrete dock was built to wrap around the southeast corner of the building and continue along the east end. A loading dock once on the north side has also been removed. Two double entrances have been altered to windows. In 1987 Building No. 135 was vacant and in poor to fair condition.(41)

41. Card for Building No. 135. "Historical Record of Buildings." NA, RG 77, Box No. 51; Field survey notes, February 20-22, 1987. QMG Plan No. 135 was not located in NA, RG 77. Cartographic Archives Division.